



# Memorandum

**TO:** CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Mayor Chuck Reed  
Councilmember Sam Liccardo

**SUBJECT: CHILDREN'S DISCOVERY  
MUSEUM EXPANSION**

**DATE:** September 26, 2014

Approved

Date

  
9/26/14  
P.C.

## RECOMMENDATION

Approve recommendations A, B, and C as outlined in the staff report dated September 8, 2014.

## BACKGROUND

The proposed project, a 15,200 square foot expansion of the Children's Discovery Museum (CDM), to include more outdoor educational programming and exhibit fabrication and repair space, is a natural progression of the success that the CDM has enjoyed as a leading Downtown San Jose cultural and educational institution since its launch in 1990.

Located on Discovery Meadow in the Guadalupe River Park, construction of the CDM began in June 1988. The project was funded as a public-private venture with a Redevelopment Agency investment of \$10.6 million and a \$2.8 million contribution from the CDM. The West Wing building expansion in 1997 resulted in creating a venue that now totals 52,000sf.

The CDM has raised \$1million to fund the proposed *Kids' Garden* and *Builder's Building* and will receive in-kind materials and educational programming from Sunpower Corporation, the San Jose Conservation Corps, the Open Space Authority and Guadalupe River Park Conservancy. This expansion will be maintained at the sole cost of the CDM. Last year, the CDM raised \$5.2 million in grants and donations, and we commend them for their efforts.

The CDM's interactive and exploratory exhibits have enthralled Bay Area residents and visitors from around the world for over two decades. As the CDM prepares to celebrate its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in June 2015, we wish to thank its governing board and management team for their on-going partnership with the City of San Jose, for showcasing the arts, sciences and humanities through its exhibits, and for inspiring the young innovators of the future.